(b) if so, the reason for the Indian Embassy being a silent spectator to the difficulties of Indian students in Australia;

(c) whether any explanation has been sought from the Indian Embassy in Australia in this regard; and

(d) the steps proposed to examine the functioning of the Indian Embassy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR): (a) Yes.

(b) The Indian High Commission in Canberra and the Consulates General of India in Sydney and Melbourne have not been silent spectators to the difficulties of Indian students in Australia. Well aware of the difficulties faced by Indian students, they have been constantly taking up the complaints and concerns with all the authorities concerned in Australia at the federal and State Government level as well as with the universities, educational institutions and related University Associations in Australia, seeking to address the problems.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Death sentence to Sarabjit Singh

1390. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan's Supreme Court has dismissed the appeal of Sarabjit Singh, an Indian seeking a review of a death sentence;

(b) if so, whether Government of India proposes to take up the matter with Government of Pakistan; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR): (a) to (c) We have seen reports that the Pakistan Supreme Court has turned down a review petition regarding the death sentence awarded to Sarabjit Singh. We have consistently urged the Government of Pakistan to take a sympathetic and humanitarian view in the case. It is our hope that they will find it possible to do so.

Repatriation of people from Pakistan

†1391. SHRI OM PRAKASH MATHUR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether many civilians from border districts of Rajasthan such as Jaisalmer, Barmer and Ganganagar had crossed the Pakistan border during the past many decades owing to human error and they are confined in the jails there; if so, the number of such civilian;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.